Claims:

1. An apparatus for applying a suture to a wound, comprising:

a) a central shaft having a proximal end and a distal end;

b) an obturator coupled to the distal end of said shaft;

c) a pair of hollow needles slidably coupled to said central shaft, each of said needles having a sharp end and being movable from a first position where said sharp ends are distant from said obturator to a second position where said sharp ends are close to said obturator;

d) a suture control mechanism coupled to one of said needles for delivering suture material through the sharp end of the needle; and

e) a snare control mechanism coupled to the other of said needles for delivering a snare through the sharp end of the needle.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

f) a skin pressure plate mounted on said shaft and movable relative to said obturator.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:

g) a needle mounting plate secured to said skin pressure plate having a threaded split collar coaxially disposed on said central shaft; and

h) a rotatable locking nut, wherein

said rotatable locking nut is threadably received on said split collar of said needle mounting plate and, upon tightening, locks said needle mounting plate and, in turn, said skin pressure plate to said central shaft.

4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said obturator has a bulbous distal end and a pair of fascia stretching fins.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said fascia stretching fins taper proximally.

6. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein:

said fascia stretching fins terminate in a fascia supporting shelf.

7. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein:

said skin pressure plate has a pair of skin stretching fins.

8. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

said fins taper distally.

9. An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein:

the sharp ends of said needles pass through said fins.

10. A method for applying a suture to a trocar wound, said method comprising:

a) inserting an obturator into the wound so that the wound is stretched;

b) inserting a pair of hollow needles on opposite sides of the obturator;

c) passing a snare through one of the needles;

d) passing a suture through the other needle;

e) capturing the suture with the snare; and

f) withdrawing the needles with the suture and the snare.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising:

g) prior to inserting the needles, placing a pressure plate on top of the wound, the pressure plate having skin stretching means for stretching the skin in a direction different to the direction stretched by the obturator.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein:

the pressure plate and the obturator stretch the skin in mutually orthogonal directions.

13. The method according to claim 11, wherein:

the stretching of the skin allows the needles to penetrate the fascia and peritoneum of the abdominal wall.

14. The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

h) removing the pressure plate; and

I) removing the obturator.

15. An apparatus for applying a suture to a wound, comprising:

a) an obturator;

b) a pair of hollow needles, each of said needles having a sharp end and being movable from a first position where said sharp ends are distant from said obturator to a second position where said sharp ends are close to said obturator;

c) a suture control mechanism coupled to one of said needles for delivering suture material through the sharp end of the needle; and

d) a snare control mechanism coupled to the other of said needles for delivering a snare through the sharp end of the needle.

16. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising:

e) a skin pressure plate movable relative to said obturator.

17. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

said obturator has a bulbous distal end and a pair of fascia stretching fins.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

said fascia stretching fins taper proximally.

19. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein:

said fascia stretching fins terminate in a fascia supporting shelf.

20. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein:

said skin pressure plate has a pair of skin stretching fins.

21. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein:

said fins taper distally.

22. An apparatus according to claim 20, wherein:

the sharp ends of said needles pass through said fins.

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